

# **DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS FOR A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

**CONTRACT NO:** CW48393

**CAPTION:** Early Childhood State Capacity Building

**PROPOSED CONTRACTOR:** BUILD (Third Sector New England)

**PROGRAM AGENCY:** Office of the State Superintendent of Education

## **FINDINGS**

**1. AUTHORIZATION:**

D.C. Official Code §2-354.04, 27 DCMR 1304, 1700 and 1701

**2. MINIMUM NEED:**

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Division of Early Learning (DEL) has an immediate requirement to become part of a nationally recognized consortium of member states that focus on the implementation of high quality early childhood education to provide capacity building, technical assistance and professional development for agency staff, District of Columbia early childhood educators, and District of Columbia community based organizations offering subsidized early childhood education services. In order to further advance the establishment of high quality publically funded early childhood education D.C. Official Code §271.01 *et seq* (2008; Amended 2010) and licensing (29 D.C. Mun. Regs. § 300 *et seq*) in the District of Columbia.

The period of performance will be from the date of award through September 30, 2017.

**3. ESTIMATED REASONABLE PRICE:**

The anticipated cost of \$240,000.00 is fair and reasonable.

**4. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:**

OSSE seeks a nationally recognized organization with a proven track record of providing reform strategies for existing state education agencies and systems, coordinating and building partnerships with other member states of the BUILD consortium, and support with state governance structures. The BUILD model is a nationally recognized and published researchers, practitioners, and policy makers that support states in advancing high quality early childhood education systems.

DEL has made great strides in improving the quality of services delivered to children and families in the District. In order to continue this ongoing increase in quality service, DEL needs to improve its internal controls in financing, programming, and EHS community partners by proven national experts that can provide the required state capacity building. OSSE also requires a vendor that can implement technical assistance model that is delivered by external experts will yield invaluable results to internal performance. Currently, there is only one organization in which states are members of a national consortium in which this model is possible. BUILD (New England Third Sector), is the only single source national consortium of state education agencies to implement the BUILD model as described above.

A market research was performed by contacting the Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) for potential Certified Business Enterprises. DSLBD was unable to locate any potential vendors. Five

other vendors were contacted either via email or phone -- Lumex Consulting, Washington Opportunity Institute, DuFresne Solutions Group, Shine Early Learning and Essential Elements. The vendors responded mostly “no” to the requirements and only “yes” to their availability to come onsite immediately. The vendors contacted were unable to provide expertise and experience in early childhood consultation and technical assistance as it relates to system building, facilitating peer learning between and among states as it relates to early learning, prior experience consulting on early childhood system development, funding, reform, strengthen local programs, test new models, pilot national projects, and strengthen commitment to diversity, equity, and cultural and linguistic inclusion. BUILD Initiative is unique because they offer more than just support, but as well as financial support. When research was performed organizations were found to only provide financial support and help build a program. BUILD Initiative offers resources for building early childhood systems, but also finances, policy structure, and provides resources for early childhood leaders within states. BUILD Initiative is a sole source because the organization not only provides finance and programming, but also partners with other states in a collaborative effort to provide all young children with access to early learning.

**5. CERTIFICATION BY AGENCY HEAD:**

I hereby certify that the above findings are true, correct and complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hanseul Kang  
State Superintendent of Education

**6. CERTIFICATION BY CONTRACTING OFFICER:**

I have reviewed the above findings and certify that they are sufficient to justify the use of the sole source method of procurement under the cited authority. I certify that the notice of intent to award a sole source contract was published in accordance with 27 DCMR 1304 and that no response was received. I recommend that the Chief Procurement Officer approve the use of the sole source procurement method for this proposed contract.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alvin N. Stith  
Contracting Officer

**DETERMINATION**

Based on the above findings and in accordance with the cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive solicitation process under either Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; D.C. Official Code § 2-354.02 or 2-354.03). Accordingly, I determine that the District is justified in using the sole source method of procurement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
George A. Schutter III  
Chief Procurement Officer